



METHYLENE PHOSPHONATE OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND
NUCLEOSIDES

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Field of the Invention

This invention relates to novel methylene phosphonate nucleosides which exhibit antiviral and antitumor activity and novel oligonucleotides derived from 10 methylene phosphonate nucleoside monomers that have enhanced nuclease stability. The invention also relates to processes for preparing the novel compounds, their derivatives and oligonucleotides containing one or more 5' methylene phosphonate internucleotide linkages. The oligonucleotides are 15 resistant to nuclease degradation and are useful for diagnostic and therapeutic applications.

Background Art

Antisense and triple helix oligonucleotides are synthetic oligonucleotides 20 which bind complementary nucleic acids (i.e. sense strand RNA or duplex DNA sequences) via hydrogen bonding, thereby inhibiting expression of these sequences. Therapeutic intervention at the nucleic acid level using oligonucleotides offers a number of advantages. Inhibition of gene expression is more efficient than inhibition of the protein encoded by the gene since transcription of a single DNA 25 sequence gives rise to multiple copies of mRNA which, in turn, are translated into many protein molecules.

Oligonucleotides have been used to inhibit gene expression in a variety of systems. There are several reviews that discuss this topic.¹⁻⁴ In addition, the use of oligonucleotides in sequence-specific recognition of double stranded DNA^{5,6} as well 30 as potential chemotherapeutic agents,⁷ has been reviewed.

An important feature of the antisense oligomeric probes is the design of the backbone of the administered oligomer. Specifically, the backbone should contain internucleoside linkages that are stable *in vitro* and should be structured such that the oligomer is resistant to endogenous nucleases, such as nucleases that attack the phosphodiester linkage.⁸ At the same time, the oligomer must also retain its ability 35 to hybridize to the target DNA or RNA. In order to ensure these properties, a

number of modified oligonucleotides have been constructed which contain alternate internucleoside linkages. Several of these oligonucleotides are described in Uhlmann, E. and Peyman, A., Chemical Reviews (1990) 90:543-584. Among these are methylphosphonates (wherein one of the phosphorous-linked oxygens has been replaced by methyl); phosphorothioates^{8,9} (wherein sulphur replaces one of these oxygens) and various amidates (wherein NH₂ or an organic amine derivative, such as morpholidates or piperazidates, replace an oxygen). These substitutions confer enhanced stability, for the most part, but suffer from the drawback that they result in a chiral phosphorous in the linkage, thus leading to the formation of 2ⁿ diastereomers where n is the number of modified diester linkages in the oligomer. The presence of these multiple diastereomers considerably weakens the capability of the modified oligonucleotide to hybridize to target sequences. Some of these substitutions also retain the ability to support a negative charge and the presence of charged groups decreases the ability of the compounds to penetrate cell membranes. There are numerous other disadvantages associated with these modified linkages, depending on the precise nature of the linkage. Phosphorodithioate modified backbones have been made.^{9,10} These modified oligonucleotides are nuclease resistant and are diastereomerically pure. However, these modifications further reduce the affinity of the oligonucleotide for its intended target.^{10c} A variety of modified nonionic¹¹ oligonucleotides including methylphosphonate, phosphoroamidate, and phosphotriesters generally are either composed of a mixture of diastereomers, have a low affinity for intended targets, or both.

A deoxyoligonucleotide comprised from nucleotide monomers that contain a methylene (-CH₂-) group substituted for the 5'-oxygen may be resistant to nucleases, especially those that leave a 3'-phosphate moiety after cleavage of the internucleotidic bond. This results from the fact that the requisite P-C bond can not be cleaved under normal physiological conditions. Additionally, a single diastereomerically pure deoxyoligonucleotide could be prepared, as the internucleotide phosphorous linkages would be achiral. We refer to the nucleotides containing a methylene (-CH₂-) group substituted for the 5'-oxygen as 5'-methylene phosphonates.

The preparation of ribo (ie 2'-OH) 5'-methylene phosphonates is well documented in the literature.¹² Uridine,¹³⁻¹⁵ adenosine,¹³⁻¹⁵ and guanosine¹⁶ 5'-methylene phosphonates have been prepared. A number of analogues of adenosine 5'-methylene phosphonate have been prepared.¹⁷⁻²³ In addition, ribavirin 5'-methylene phosphonate,²⁴ as well as a ribo 5'-methylene phosphonate containing

thiazole-4-carboxamide as the base, has been prepared.²⁵ Ribo compounds having a 3'-methylene phosphonate have also been prepared.²⁶⁻²⁸

There are very few reports of 2'-deoxy 5'-methylene phosphonates in the literature, and these are all related to thymidine. Only the syntheses of 5'-methylene phosphonates of thymidine,²⁹ 3'-azidothymidine (AZT),^{30,31} and 2'-deoxy-5-fluoro-uridine³² have been reported. There have been no reports on the syntheses of 5'-methylene phosphonates derived from 2'-deoxyadenosine, 2'-deoxycytidine, or 2'-deoxyguanosine. There also have been no reports on the synthesis of 5' methylene phosphonate nucleosides having 5-iodouracil, 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine as the base. The 5-iodouridine 5' methylene phosphonate compound would be made in an analogous manner to that used to synthesize the 5' methylene phosphonate derived from thymidine as described for compounds 33 and 37 below. The 2-aminopurine and 2,6-diaminopurine nucleoside 5' methylene phosphonates would be made in an analogous manner to that used to synthesize the 5' methylene phosphonate derived from deoxyadenosine as described for compounds 36 and 40 below.

Several ribo 5'-methylene phosphonate dimers have been synthesized. These include UpCH₂U and UpCH₂A.^{33,34} Several ribo 3'-methylene phosphonate dimers,³³ as well as a trimer²⁸ have been synthesized. These ribo dimers and trimer were prepared using the diester method of oligonucleotide synthesis.^{35,36} This method suffers from low product yields, and difficulties in purification of the final product.^{35,36} The method is generally not useful in the preparation of longer oligonucleotides. Recently, a ribo oligonucleotide 10-mer consisting of 5'-methylene phosphonates, ApA(pCH₂A)₈, was prepared enzymatically using polynucleotide phosphorylase.³⁷ This technique, however, cannot be used for the preparation of oligonucleotides having a defined sequence of mixed bases.

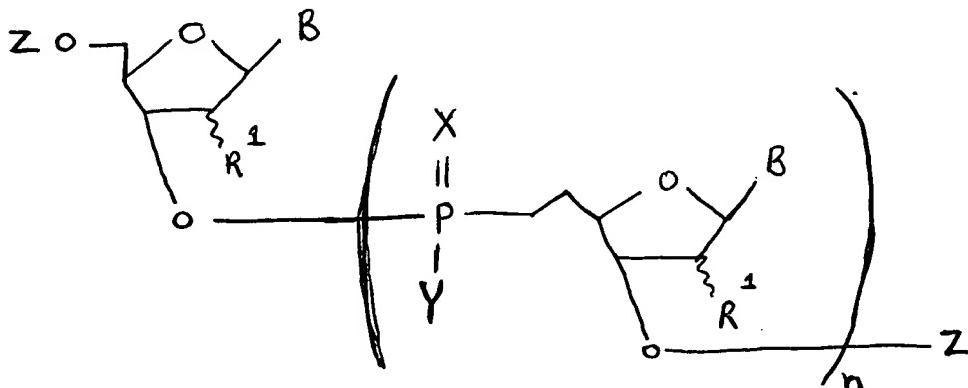
Only one 2'-deoxy dimer, TpCH₂T, and one 2'-deoxy trimer, TpCH₂TpCH₂T, have been reported in the literature.²⁹ Only the 5'-methylene phosphonate derived from thymidine was used in the dimer and trimer. No mixed base 2'-deoxy 5'-methylene phosphonate dimers or longer mixed base, 2'-deoxy 5'-methylene phosphonate oligonucleotides have been reported. Additionally, no 2'-deoxy 5'-methylene phosphonate oligonucleotides longer than a 3-mer of any kind have been reported. However, recently the synthesis of oligodeoxynucleotides containing 5'-methylene phosphonates of 2'-deoxy-4'-carbocyclic nucleosides has been reported by W. Frick and S.W. Schneller, Meetings Abstract, Conference on Nucleic Acid Therapeutics, January 13-17, 1991, Clearwater Beach, Florida, p63).

The present invention relates to the synthesis of 2'-deoxy-5'-methylene phosphonate oligonucleotides of length 2-30 of mixed base composition. These oligodeoxynucleotides are prepared using the phosphotriester method³⁸ from suitably protected 2'-deoxy 5'-methylene phosphonate nucleotide monomers. We
5 prepared novel 5'-methylene phosphonates in both a protected form that was suitable for oligonucleotide synthesis, as well as in a completely deprotected form. Some of the novel 5'-methylene phosphonates that were prepared were derived from 2'-deoxyadenosine, 2'-deoxycytidine, and 2'-deoxyguanosine. The monomers described herein are suitable for solid phase oligonucleotide synthesis by triester
10 chemistry. Previous methods utilized diester chemistry which is more difficult and generates low yields of product. Oligonucleotides containing 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro-ribonucleotides are of interest because the conformation of the sugar closely resembles that of RNA and consequently these oligonucleotides have a higher affinity to DNA than normal oligodeoxyribonucleotides (M. Ikehara, Heterocycles
15 1984, 21, 75).

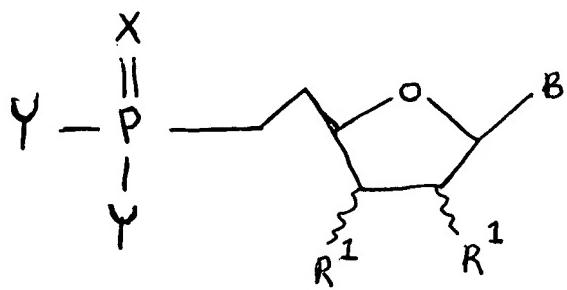
Synthesis of oligonucleotides containing a covalent crosslinking aziridinylcytosine residue is disclosed in commonly assigned co-pending U.S. application serial no. 529,346, synthesis of oligonucleotides containing a region of inverted polarity is disclosed in commonly assigned co-pending U.S. application serial no. 559,957, synthesis of oligonucleotides containing improved base analogs, such as 8-hydroxy-N⁶-methyladenine and pseudouracil, for triple helix formation are disclosed in commonly assigned co-pending U.S. application serial no. 617,907 and synthesis of oligonucleotides containing noninterfering substituents at either the 5' or 3' ends of oligonucleotides is disclosed in commonly assigned co-pending U.S. application serial no. 482,943.³⁹ These documents are incorporated herein by reference. 5' methylene phosphonate nucleoside having N⁴-etheno-5-methylcytosine (aziridinylcytosine) as the base could be prepared from the thymidine 5' methylene phosphonate (compound 37 below) by transient silyl protection, formation of the appropriate triazolide, removal of silyl protecting groups and then reaction with aziridine in DMF using the procedures described in serial no. 529,346.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses oligonucleotides and methods for their synthesis of formula (I):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein each B is independently a purine or pyrimidine base or modified form each Z is independently a noninterfering substituent, preferably hydrogen, PO_3^- or a protecting group; each R¹ is independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ester; each Y is independently OR², N(R²)₂ or SR² wherein, each R² is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1 - 12 C); X is selected from oxygen and sulfur; n is an integer from 1 to 200. Bases such as adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine and uracil as well as modified forms (base analogs) such as 5-methylcytosine, aziridinylcytosine, 8-hydroxy-N⁶-methyladenine, pseudoisocytosine and inosine are preferred. The oligonucleotides contain one or more 5' methylene phosphonate linkages. The oligonucleotides may be synthesized from derivatives disclosed herein of monomers of formula (II):



wherein B is a purine or pyrimidine base or modified form; each R¹ is independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ester; each Y is independently OR², N(R²)₂ or SR² wherein, each R² is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1 - 12 C); and X is selected from oxygen and sulfur. Bases such as guanine,

adenine, cytosine, thymine, uracil, iodouracil, 8-hydroxy-N⁶-methyladenine, aziridinylcytosine, 2-aminopurine, 2, 6-diaminopurine or other base analogs or altered forms may be utilized. Alternative monomer structures, such as 2', 3' epoxides and 2', 3' dideoxy didehydro sugars may also be synthesized.

5 The free 5'-methylene phosphonate nucleosides present enzymatically nonhydrolysable isosteres of mononucleotides. As such they can be converted intracellularly by cellular kinases to the corresponding nucleoside phosphono triphosphates, incorporated into DNA by polymerases and thus interfere with cellular metabolism. Thus, such nucleoside phosphonates potentially exhibit
10 antiviral and antitumour activity. For example, several acyclic methylene phosphonates such as the methylene phosphonates derived from ganciclovir, and acyclovir are potent antivirals.³⁹⁻⁴² Other nucleoside phosphonates have been claimed in a patent application (Elmer Reist et al, Stanford Research Institute, PCT publication no. WO 84/04748). The novel 5'-methylene compounds that are
15 described herein thus have useful antiviral or antitumour activities.

The oligonucleotide and nucleoside monomer compounds possess antiviral activity and can be used in the control or prevention of viral infections, e.g. of herpes simplex viral infections. The *in vitro* activity of the compounds of formula I and their tautomers in inhibiting herpes simplex
20 virus type 2 (HSV-2) can be demonstrated by means of the following plaque reduction procedure. Host VERO cells are infected with virus stock containing a known number of infectious virions in the presence of various concentrations of compound. Plaques in the cell monolayer are then counted and compared to untreated controls and to acyclovir treated controls. The
25 degree of inhibition at each concentration of compound is expressed as a percentage of the control titer (100%). The IC₅₀ value, namely the concentration of compound which inhibits viral activity by 50%, is then calculated. The results that are obtained with representative compounds show that virus titer reductions occur.

30 The compounds disclosed herein can be used as medicaments in the form of pharmaceutical preparations which contain them in association with a compatible pharmaceutical carrier material. This can be an organic or inorganic carrier suitable for enteral, e.g. oral, or parenteral administration. Examples of such carriers are water, gelatin, gum arabic, lactose, starch,
35 magnesium stearate, talc, vegetable oils, polyalkylene glycols and petroleum jelly. The pharmaceutical preparations can be made up in a solid form, e.g. as

tablets, dragees, suppositories or capsules, or in a liquid form, e.g. as solutions, suspensions or emulsions; they may be subjected to standard pharmaceutical operations, e.g. sterilization and/or may contain adjuvants, e.g. preserving, stabilizing, wetting or emulsifying agents, salts for varying the osmotic pressure or buffers. The compounds may also be formulated in a manner suitable for administration as an aerosol. They may also contain other therapeutically valuable substances.

The compounds disclosed herein and their tautomers can be administered for the control or prevention of viral infection, such as herpes simplex viral infections, to warmblooded animals in need of such treatment. The disclosed compounds and their tautomers can be administered to adult humans in a daily dosage of from about 1 to 1000 mg, preferably about 5 to 500 mg. The daily dosage may be administered as a single dose or in divided doses. The above dosage range is given by way of example only and can be varied upwards or downwards depending on factors such as the particular compound being administered, the route of administration, the severity of the indication being treated and the condition of the patient.

20 Experimental Section

General. Flash chromatography refers to the procedure of Still et. al.⁴³ Drying refers to drying over Na₂SO₄, filtration, and concentration. All reactions requiring dry solvents were run under a dry argon atmosphere.

25 The following six tables show structures for compounds 1 through 90.

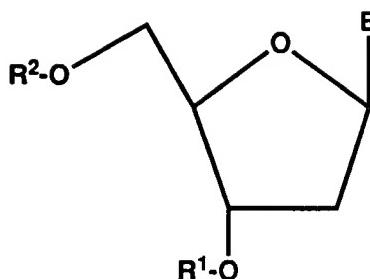
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T90X

Table 1



5	Compound	B	R ¹	R ²
10	1	G ^{Ib}	H	H
	3	C ^{Bz}	H	H
	5	A ^{Bz}	H	H
	2	G ^{Ib}	H	DMT
	4	C ^{Bz}	H	DMT
	6	A ^{Bz}	H	DMT
15	7	T	H	DMT
	8	G ^{Ib}	TBS	H
	9	C ^{Bz}	TBS	H
	10	A ^{Bz}	TBS	H
	11	T	TBS	H
	12	T ^{Bn}	Bn	H

20 For tables 1-6; G = guanine; C = cytosine; A = adenine; T = thymine;
G^{Ib} = N²-isobutyrylguanine; C^{Bz} = N⁴-benzoylcytosine;
A^{Bz} = N⁶-benzoyladenine; T^{Bn} = N³-benzylthymine; Bn = benzyl;
DMT = 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl; TBS = t-butyldimethylsilyl;
+HTEA = hydrogenteriethylammonium

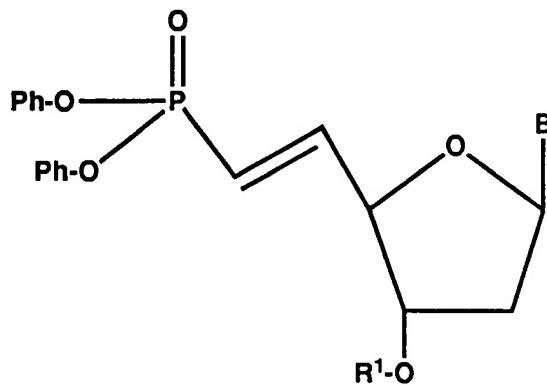
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T100 X

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Table 2



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	Compound	B	R¹
15	13	G ^{Ib}	TBS
	15	C ^{Bz}	TBS
	17	A ^{Bz}	TBS
	19	T	TBS
20	21	T ^{Bn}	Bn

For definition of abbreviations, see Table 1.

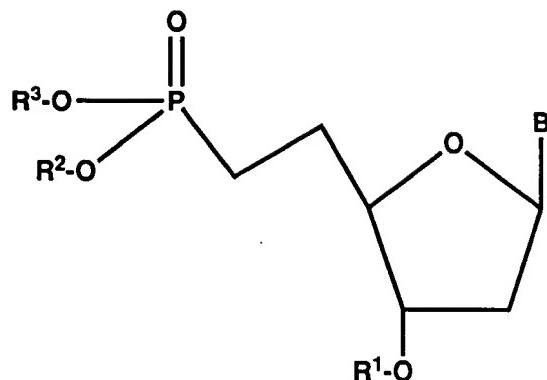
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T110X

Table 3

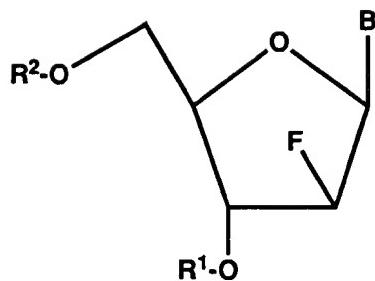


Compound	B	R ¹	R ²	R ³
5	14	G ^{Ib}	TBS	Ph
	16	C ^{Bz}	TBS	Ph
	18	A ^{Bz}	TBS	Ph
	20	T	TBS	Ph
10	22	T ^{Bn}	Bn	Ph
	23	T ^{Bn}	Bn	Me
	24	T ^{Bn}	H	Me
	25	T ^{Bn}	Bn	Bn
15	26	G ^{Ib}	H	Ph
	27	C ^{Bz}	H	Ph
	28	A ^{Bz}	H	Ph
	29	T	H	Ph
20	30	G ^{Ib}	H	Me
	31	C ^{Bz}	H	Me
	32	A ^{Bz}	H	Me
	33	T	H	Me
25	34	G ^{Ib}	H	H
	35	C ^{Bz}	H	H
	36	A ^{Bz}	H	H
	37	T	H	H
30	38	G	H	H
	39	C	H	H
	40	A	H	H
	41	G ^{Ib}	DMT	Ph
35	42	C ^{Bz}	DMT	Ph
	43	A ^{Bz}	DMT	Ph
	44	T	DMT	Ph
	45	G ^{Ib}	DMT	Ph + HTEA
35	46	C ^{Bz}	DMT	Ph + HTEA
	47	A ^{Bz}	DMT	Ph + HTEA
	48	T	DMT	Ph + HTEA

For definition of abbreviations, see Table 1.

T100X

TABLE 4



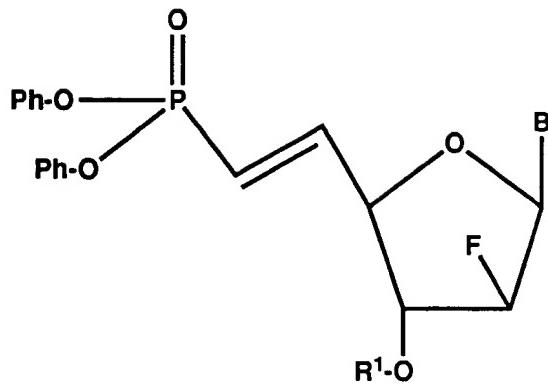
5	Compound	B	R ¹	R ²
10	49	G ^{Ib}	H	H
	51	C ^{Bz}	H	H
	53	A ^{Bz}	H	H
	50	G ^{Ib}	H	DMT
	52	C ^{Bz}	H	DMT
	54	A ^{Bz}	H	DMT
15	55	T	H	DMT
	56	G ^{Ib}	TBS	H
	57	C ^{Bz}	TBS	H
	58	A ^{Bz}	TBS	H
	59	T	TBS	H

For definition of abbreviations, see Table 1.

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T130X

Table 5



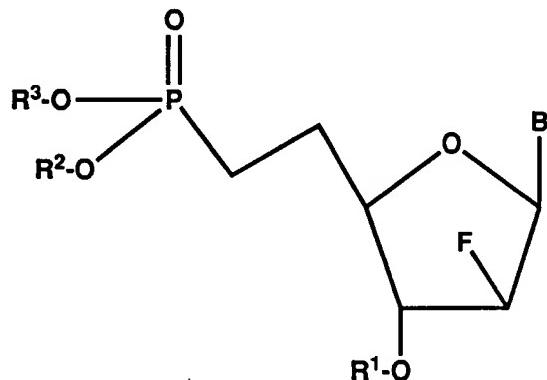
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	Compound	B	R ¹
10	60	G ^{Ib}	TBS
	62	C ^{Bz}	TBS
	64	A ^{Bz}	TBS
	66	T	TBS

For definition of abbreviations, see Table 1.

T140X

Table 6



5	Compound	B	R ¹	R ²	R ³
10	61	G ^{Ib}	TBS	Ph	Ph
	63	C ^{Bz}	TBS	Ph	Ph
	65	A ^{Bz}	TBS	Ph	Ph
	67	T	TBS	Ph	Ph
	68	G ^{Ib}	H	Ph	Ph
15	69	C ^{Bz}	H	Ph	Ph
	70	A ^{Bz}	H	Ph	Ph
	71	T	H	Ph	Ph
	72	G ^{Ib}	H	Me	Me
	73	C ^{Bz}	H	Me	Me
20	74	A ^{Bz}	H	Me	Me
	75	T	H	Me	Me
	76	G ^{Ib}	H	H	H
	77	C ^{Bz}	H	H	H
	78	A ^{Bz}	H	H	H
25	79	T	H	H	H
	80	G	H	H	H
	81	C	H	H	H
	82	A	H	H	H
	83	G ^{Ib}	DMT	Ph	Ph
30	84	C ^{Bz}	DMT	Ph	Ph
	85	A ^{Bz}	DMT	Ph	Ph
	86	T	DMT	Ph	Ph
	87	G ^{Ib}	DMT	Ph	+HTEA
	88	C ^{Bz}	DMT	Ph	+HTEA
35	89	A ^{Bz}	DMT	Ph	+HTEA
	90	T	DMT	Ph	+HTEA

For definition of abbreviations, see Table 1.

N²-Isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine (1). The acylation by transient protection method of R. A. Jones⁴⁴ was used. To a stirred mixture of 4.28 g (15.0 mmol) of 2'-deoxyguanosine monohydrate (that was first concentrated from dry pyridine) in 150 mL of dry pyridine that was cooled on an ice water bath was added 9.75 mL (76.8 mmol, 5.12 equiv) of chlorotrimethylsilane dropwise, over several minutes. After 30 min., 12.8 mL (76.9 mmol, 5.13 equiv.) of isobutyric anhydride was added dropwise, over several minutes. The ice bath was removed and stirring was continued for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled on an ice water bath, and 30 mL of cold H₂O was added to the reaction. After 15 min., 30 mL of concentrated aqueous ammonia was added. The reaction was stirred for 30 min., and then concentrated. The residue was taken up in 100 mL of H₂O and extracted with Et₂O. The title compound was either crystallized from the aqueous layer, or was isolated by flash column chromatography.

N²-Isobutyryl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxyguanosine (2). The tritylation procedure of Jones⁴⁵ was modified such that no DMAP was used. To 3.37 g (10.0 mmol) of N²-isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine (that was first concentrated from dry pyridine) in 50 mL of dry pyridine, was added 4.06 g (12.0 mmol, 1.20 equiv.) of 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl chloride. The reaction was stirred for 15 h, and then concentrated. The residue was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and 0.5% aq. NaHCO₃, shaken, and separated. The organic layer was washed with 0.5% aq. NaHCO₃ and dried. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography.

N⁴-Benzoyl-2'-deoxycytidine (3). This compound was prepared from 2'-deoxycytidine monohydrate by the same procedure used for the preparation of N²-isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine except that 9.0 mL (77.5 mmol, 5.17 equiv.) of benzoyl chloride was used instead of isobutyric anhydride.

N⁴-Benzoyl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxycytidine (4). This compound was prepared from N⁴-benzoyl-2'-deoxycytidine by the same procedure used for the preparation of N²-isobutyryl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxyguanosine.

N⁶-Benzoyl-2'-deoxyadenosine (5). This compound was prepared from 2'-deoxyadenosine monohydrate by the same procedure used for the preparation of N⁴-benzoyl-2'-deoxycytidine.

N⁶-Benzoyl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxyadenosine (6). This compound was prepared from N⁶-benzoyl-2'-deoxyadenosine by the same procedure used for the preparation of N²-isobutyryl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxyguanosine.

5'-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-thymidine (7). This compound was prepared from thymidine by the same procedure used for the preparation of N²-isobutyryl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxyguanosine.

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3'-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-N²-isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine (8). To a stirred solution of 2.00 g (3.13 mmol) of N²-isobutyryl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxyguanosine and 1.54 g (22.6 mmol, 7.22 equiv.) of imidazole in 12.5 mL of dry DMF was added 1.16 g (7.70 mmol, 2.46 equiv.) of t-butyldimethylsilyl chloride. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3.5 h and then concentrated. The residue was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and H₂O, shaken, and separated. The organics were washed with H₂O and concentrated (not dried). The crude residue was then stirred in 100 mL of 80% aq. HOAc for 1.5 h and then concentrated. The residue was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and H₂O, shaken, and separated. The organics were washed with sat. aq. NaHCO₃, H₂O, and dried. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on a 40 mm column using one column volume of 2% TEA in CH₂Cl₂, then one column volume of 2% TEA and 2% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂, and then 2% TEA and 4% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂. The product was concentrated from toluene affording 1.18 g (83.7% yield).

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3'-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-N⁴-benzoyl-2'-deoxycytidine (9). This compound was prepared from N⁴-benzoyl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxycytidine by the same procedure used for the preparation of 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N²-isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine.

3'-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-N⁶-benzoyl-2'-deoxyadenosine (10). This compound was prepared from N⁶-benzoyl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxyadenosine by the same procedure used for the preparation of 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N²-isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine.

3'-O-t-Butyldimethylsilylthymidine (11). This compound was prepared from 5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-thymidine by the same procedure used for the preparation of 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N²-isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine.

3'-O,N³-Dibenzylthymidine (12). To a stirred solution of 2.18 g of 5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-thymidine (4.00 mmol) in 52 mL of dry DMF was carefully added 2.00 g of a 60% oil dispersion of NaH. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 5 min. To the mixture was added 4.77 mL (40.1 mmol, 10.0 equiv.) of benzyl bromide dropwise, over several minutes. After 1 h, the reaction was cooled on an ice-water bath. Then, 12 mL of sat. aq. NaHCO₃ was carefully added (vigorous hydrogen gas evolution) dropwise, over several minutes. The mixture was stirred for 10 min, and then concentrated. The residue was then stirred in 100 mL of 80% aq. HOAc at room temperature for

1.5 h, and then concentrated. The crude residue was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and H₂O, shaken, and separated. The organic layer was washed with sat. aq. NaHCO₃, H₂O, and then dried. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on a 50 mm column using two column volumes of CH₂Cl₂, two column volumes of 1% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂, and then 2.5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ as eluents. This afforded 1.49 g of product (88.2% yield) as a colorless solid.

Diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate (13). Literature methods³⁹ were adapted for the preparation of the title compound. To a solution of 106 mg of 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N²-isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine (0.236 mmol) and 294 mg of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide DCC (1.42 mmol, 6.02 equiv.) in 1.3 mL of dry DMSO was added 11.3 mg of methylphosphonic acid (0.118 mmol, 0.50 equiv.). The reaction was stirred at room temperature. After 18 h, dry pyridine (0.080 mL) and then 120 mg (0.236 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) of diphenyl [(triphenylphosphoranylidene)methyl]phosphonate⁴⁶ were added. Another 0.80 mL of dry DMSO was added. The reaction was stirred at room temperature. After 27 h, the reaction was diluted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with 2 x H₂O, and dried. The crude material was flashed on a 25 mm column using one column volume of CH₂Cl₂, then one column volume of 3% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂, and then 6% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ as eluents. The product containing fractions were combined and concentrated. The product was purified again purified by flash chromatography on a 25 mm column using one column volume of 12.5% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂, then one column volume of 25% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂, and then 50% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂ as eluents. This procedure afforded 9.4 mg (6.0% yield) of product.

Diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate (14). To a solution of 9.4 mg (0.0138 mmol) of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate in 20 mL of MeOH was added a catalytic amount of 10% Pd on carbon. The mixture was hydrogenated at 260 psi of H₂ (in a Parr reaction vessel) for 3 h. The mixture was filtered through Celite and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on a 15 mm column using one column volume of CH₂Cl₂, then one column volume of 12.5% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂, then one column volume of 25% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂, and then 50% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂ as eluents. This procedure afforded 2.0 mg (21.3% yield) of product.

- Diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate (15). This compound is prepared from 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N⁴-benzoyl-2'-deoxycytidine by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-
5 butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanosine]-6'-phosphonate.
- Diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate (16). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanosine]-6'-phosphonate.
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- Diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate (17). This compound is prepared from 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N⁶-benzoyl-2'-deoxyadenosine by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-
20 butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanosine]-6'-phosphonate.
- Diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate (18). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanosine]-6'-phosphonate.
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- Diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate (19). This compound is prepared from 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilylthymidine by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanosine]-6'-phosphonate.
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- Diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate (20). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of
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diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butylidemethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanosine]-6'-phosphonate.

Diphenyl [1-(3-O-Benzyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N³-benzylthymine]-6'-phosphonate (21). The title compound was prepared by modification of related known procedures.^{13,19} To a stirred solution of 300 mg of 3'-O,N³-dibenzylthymidine (0.710 mmol) and 874 mg of (4.24 mmol, 5.97 equiv.) of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC), in 2.37 mL of DMSO was added 0.356 mL of a 1.0 M solution (0.356 mmol, 0.50 equiv.) of orthophosphoric acid (Aldrich) in DMSO. The reaction was stirred at room temperature. After 19 h, 0.237 mL of dry pyridine was added, followed by 412 mg (0.710 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) of diphenyl [(triphenylphosphoranylidene)methyl]phosphonate. The reaction was stirred for 31 h. The reaction mixture was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and H₂O, shaken and separated. The organic layer was washed with H₂O and dried. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on a 25 mm column using one column volume of CH₂Cl₂, one column volume of 5% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂, and then 10% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂ as eluents. This afforded 334 mg (80.5% yield) of product.

Diphenyl [1-(3-O-Benzyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N³-benzylthymine]-6'-phosphonate (22). To a stirred solution of 334 mg (0.513 mmol) of diphenyl [1-(3-O-benzyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N³-benzylthymine]-6'-phosphonate in 7.7 mL of dry Et₂O was added 307 mg (1.03 mmol, 2.01 equiv.) of 2,4,6-tri-isopropylbenzenesulphonyl hydrazide,⁴⁷ followed by 0.143 mL of dry TEA. The reaction was refluxed for 14 h. The mixture was partitioned between Et₂O and sat. aq. NaHCO₃, shaken, and separated. The organic layer was washed with H₂O and dried. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on a 25 mm column using one column volume of CH₂Cl₂, one column volume of 5% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂, and then 10% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂ as eluents. This afforded 244 mg (72.8% yield) of product.

Dimethyl [1-(3-O-Benzyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N³-benzylthymine]-6'-phosphonate (23). Commercially available CsF (100 mg) was flame dried while under vacuum, and allowed to cool to room temperature. To the dried solid was added 3.00 mL of dry MeOH, followed by 143 mg (0.219 mmol) of diphenyl [1-(3-O-benzyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N³-benzylthymine]-6'-phosphonate. The reaction was stirred for 20 h, and then concentrated. The residue was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and H₂O, shaken, and separated. The organics were washed with H₂O and dried. The residue was purified on a 25 mm column using one

column volume of CH₂Cl₂, one column volume of 2.5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂, and then 5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ as eluents. This procedure afforded 85.9 mg (74.0% yield) of product.

5 **Dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N³-benzylthymine]-6'-phosphonate (24).** Known literature methods⁴⁸ were adapted to remove the benzyl protecting group from the 3'-oxygen. Dimethyl [1-(3-O-benzyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N³-benzylthymine]-6'-phosphonate (3.0 mg, 0.00567 mmol) was added to a 4.4% solution of HCO₂H in MeOH (prepared from 96% HCO₂H) followed by a catalytic amount of 10% Pd on carbon. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 19 h. The reaction was then filtered through Celite and concentrated. This procedure afforded 2.0 mg (80.6% yield) of product as a colorless solid.

15 **Dibenzyl [1-(3-O-Benzyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N³-benzylthymine]-6'-phosphonate (25).** This procedure was based on a related procedure.²⁵ To a solution of 416 mg (0.638 mmol) of diphenyl [1-(3-O-benzyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N³-benzylthymine]-6'-phosphonate in 3.0 mL of benzyl alcohol, was added 2.0 mL of a solution prepared by the addition of 200 mg of NaH to 16.7 mL of benzyl alcohol. After 1 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with 50 mL of Et₂O. Excess gaseous CO₂ was bubbled into the mixture. A gel like mixture formed which was dissolved in EtOAc. This solution was concentrated onto silica gel. The silica gel was loaded onto a previously equilibrated 25 mm column and eluted with one column volume of CH₂Cl₂, then one column volume of 10% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂, and then 20% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂ as eluents. This afforded 127 mg (29.3% yield) of product.

30 **Diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranoyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate (26).** This reaction is based on a similar procedure by Barton et al.³⁰ To 5.00 mmol of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate in 100 mL of dry THF is added 5.5 mL (5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) of a 1.00 M solution of tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) in THF. The reaction is stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Then 20 mL of MeOH is added. The reaction is stirred for 5 min., and then concentrated. The residue is purified by flash chromatography.

40 **Diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate (27).** This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the

preparation of diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.

5 **Diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate (28).** This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-

butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.

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15 **Diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate (29).** This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.

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20 **Dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate (30).** This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate and CsF in MeOH by the same procedure used for the preparation of dimethyl [1-(3-O-benzyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hexofuranosyl)-N³-benzylthymine]-6'-phosphonate. After the aqueous extraction and drying, the crude product is purified by flash chromatography.

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25 **Dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate (31).** This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.

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35 **Dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate (32).** This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.

35 **Dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate (33).** This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for

the preparation of dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.

[9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonic acid (34).

This reaction is based on a similar procedure by Barton et al.³⁰ To a stirred, ice-cooled mixture of dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate in 150 mL of CH₂Cl₂ is added 1.98 mL (15.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) of bromotrimethylsilane dropwise, over several minutes. The reaction is stirred for 30 min., and then the ice bath is removed. After stirring for an additional 10 h, 20 mL of MeOH is added. The reaction is stirred for 5 min., and then concentrated. The product is used without further purification.

[1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonic acid (35).

This compound is prepared from dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

[9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonic acid (36).

This compound is prepared from dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

[1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonic acid (37).

This compound was prepared from dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

[9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-guanine]-6'-phosphonic acid (38).

The entire crude [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonic acid, from above, is heated in 150 mL of concentrated aqueous ammonia at 55°C for 18 h, and then concentrated.

[1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-cytosine]-6'-phosphonic acid (39).

This compound is prepared from [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonic acid by the same procedure used for the

preparation of [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-guanine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

[9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-adenine]-6'-phosphonic acid (40).

- 5 This compound is prepared from [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonic acid by the same procedure used for the preparation of [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-guanine]-6'-phosphonic acid.
- 10 Diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate (41). To 5.00 mmol of diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate (that is first concentrated from dry pyridine) in 30 mL of dry pyridine, is added 2.03 g (6.0 mmol, 1.20 equiv.) of 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl chloride. The reaction is stirred for 15 h, and then concentrated. The residue is partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and 0.5% aq. NaHCO₃, shaken, and separated. The organic layer is washed with 0.5% aq. NaHCO₃ and dried. The crude product is purified by flash chromatography.
- 15 Diphenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate (42). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.
- 20 Diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate (43). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.
- 25 Diphenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate (44). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.

- Monophenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt (45). A mixture of 3.00 mmol of diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate is stirred in 100 mL of concentrated aqueous ammonia at room temperature. The reaction is monitored by TLC. After ca. 1 h, the mixture is concentrated. The product is purified by flash chromatography.
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- Monophenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt (46). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of monophenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt.
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- Monophenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt (47). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of monophenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt.
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- Monophenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt (48). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of monophenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt.
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- Monophenyl [9-(2-Deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine (49). This compound is prepared from 9-(2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-guanine⁴⁹ by the same procedure used for the preparation of N²-isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine.
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9-[2-Deoxy-5-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl]-N²-isobutyrylguanine (50). This compound is prepared from 9-(2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine by the same procedure used for the preparation of N²-isobutyryl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxyguanosine.

1-(2-Deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine (51). This compound is prepared from 1-(2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-cytosine⁵⁰ by the same procedure used for the preparation of N⁴-benzoyl-2'-deoxycytidine.

1-[2-Deoxy-5-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl]-N⁴-benzoylcytosine (52). This compound is prepared from 1-(2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine by the same procedure used for the preparation of N⁴-benzoyl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxycytidine.

9-(2-Deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine (53). This compound is prepared from 9-(2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-adenine⁴⁹ by the same procedure used for the preparation of N⁶-benzoyl-2'-deoxyadenosine.

9-[2-Deoxy-5-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl]-N⁶-benzoyladenine (54). This compound is prepared from 9-(2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine by the same procedure used for the preparation of N⁶-benzoyl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2'-deoxyadenosine.

1-[2-Deoxy-5-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl]-thymine (55). This compound is prepared from 1-(2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-thymine⁵¹ by the same procedure used for the preparation of 5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-thymidine.

9-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine (56). This compound is prepared from 9-[2-deoxy-5-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl]-N²-isobutyrylguanine by the same procedure used for the preparation of 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N²-isobutyryl-2'-deoxyguanosine.

1-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine (57). This compound is prepared from 1-[2-deoxy-5-O-(4,4'-

dimethoxytrityl)-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl]-N⁴-benzoylcytosine by the same procedure used for the preparation of 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N⁴-benzoyl-2'-deoxycytidine.

- 5 **9-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine** (58). This compound is prepared from 9-[2-deoxy-5-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl]-N⁶-benzoyladenine by the same procedure used for the preparation of 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N⁶-benzoyl-2'-deoxyadenosine.
- 10 **1-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-thymine** (59). This compound is prepared from 1-[2-deoxy-5-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl]-thymine by the same procedure used for the preparation of 3'-O-t-butyldimethylsilylthymidine.
- 15 **Diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate** (60). This compound is prepared from 9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanosine]-6'-phosphonate.
- 20 **Diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate** (61). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.
- 25 **Diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate** (62). This compound is prepared from 1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate.
- 30 **Diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate** (63). This

compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate.

Diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate (64). This compound is prepared from 9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate.

Diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate (65). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate.

Diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate (66). This compound is prepared from 1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2-deoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinofuranosyl)-thymine by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate.

Diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-Butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate (67). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino-hex-5-enofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate.

Diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate (68). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate by the same

procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.

Diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-

5 benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate (69). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-butylidemethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate.

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Diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladanine]-6'-phosphonate (70). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(3-O-t-butylidemethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladanine]-6'-phosphonate by the same

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procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladanine]-6'-phosphonate.

Diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate (71). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-t-

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butyldimethylsilyl-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate.

Dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N²-

25 isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate (72). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.

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Dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate (73). This compound is prepared from

diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the

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preparation of dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate.

Dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladanine]-6'-phosphonate (74). This compound is prepared from

diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate.

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Dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate (75). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate.

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[9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonic acid (76). This compound is prepared from dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

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[1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonic acid (77). This compound is prepared from dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

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[9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonic acid (78). This compound is prepared from dimethyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

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[1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonic acid (79). This compound is prepared from dimethyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

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[9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-guanine]-6'-phosphonic acid (80). This compound is prepared from [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonic acid

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by the same procedure used for the preparation of [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-guanine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

5 **[1-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-cytosine]-6'-phosphonic acid (81).**

This compound is prepared from [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonic acid by the same procedure used for the preparation of [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-cytosine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

10 **[9-(2,5,6-Trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-adenine]-6'-phosphonic acid (82).**

This compound is prepared from [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonic acid by the same procedure used for the preparation of [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-adenine]-6'-phosphonic acid.

15 **Diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate (83).**

This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate by the same

20 procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate.

25 **Diphenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate (84).**

This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate.

30 **Diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate (85).**

This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate.

35 **Diphenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabinohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate (86).**

This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-

arabinohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of diphenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate.

5 **Monophenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino hexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt** (87). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino hexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the

10 preparation of monophenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N²-isobutyrylguanine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt.

15 **Monophenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino hexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt** (88). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino hexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of monophenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁴-benzoylcytosine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt.

25 **Monophenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino hexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt** (89). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino hexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of monophenyl [9-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-N⁶-benzoyladenine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt.

30 **Monophenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-Dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino hexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt** (90). This compound is prepared from diphenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy-2-fluoro- β -D-arabino hexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate by the same procedure used for the preparation of monophenyl [1-(3-O-[4,4'-dimethoxytrityl]-2,5,6-trideoxy- β -D-ribohexofuranosyl)-thymine]-6'-phosphonate triethylammonium salt.

Synthesis of oligonucleotides. Oligonucleotides are synthesized from the 5'-end to the 3'-end. The phosphotriester method of oligonucleotide synthesis described by Sproat and Gait is used.³⁸ Appropriately protected 3'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-nucleosides having a free 5'-hydroxyl group are required for the solid phase synthesis.⁵² These nucleosides are affixed to a long chain alkylamine controlled pore glass (LCAA/CPG) via a succinate linker using standard methods.³⁸ The 3'-O-DMT group on the support bound nucleoside is cleaved with 3% (v/v) dichloroacetic acid in 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE). After washing with DCE, and then pyridine, coupling of the appropriate monophenyl nucleoside-6'-phosphonate as its triethylammonium salt is effected with the coupling agent 1-mesitylenesulphonyl-3-nitro-1,2,4-triazole (MSNT) and 1-methylimidazole (NMI) in pyridine. This coupling is allowed to occur from 15-45 minutes. The support is then washed with pyridine. The oligo containing support is then treated with an Ac₂O/lutidine/DMAP capping solution. The capping agent and its use is described by Atkinson and Smith.⁵³ After capping, the support is washed with first DCE, pyridine, and then DCE again. Then the cycle is repeated (ie. deprotection, coupling, capping). After the last coupling step, the fully protected oligonucleotide is cleaved from the support and fully deprotected using a mixture of pyridine-2-carbaldoxime and tetramethylguanidine in dioxane/water.³⁸ This deprotection is allowed to occur at 37°C for 20 h. After drying in vacuo, the oligonucleotide is purified by either HPLC or polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE).

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